



# LARC



Volume 49, Number 10

October 2009

## President's Message for October

Well, it's late September and the Atlantic hurricane season is more than half over and we haven't had much activity - so far. Let's hope it stays that way.

We had our Louisiana state-wide Simulated Emergency Test last Saturday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Ed Roy, WA5TNK (Lafayette Parish EC) was joined by myself, Dags-KE5CGN, Herman-KN5GRK, Archie-W5AG, Grant-KF5CNU, and Galen-KF5BET. Bill Vincent, Director of the Homeland Security was there during most of our activities to compliment us for what we are doing.

Although the main frequency on 75 meters was barely readable, we were able to contact the net control station (Gary Stratton, K5GLS in Shreveport) and pass some simulated emergency traffic. Thanks to Jim-N5NVP for assisting in relays while he was mobile. Quite a feat, thanks, Jim.

Grant got some valuable experience passing traffic and did a superb job. He is anxious to operate in a real emergency so I suggested he study up on his general license.

The weekend of Saturday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club annual hamfest takes place in Pineville, LA just outside of Alexandria, LA. See Jim-N5NVP for early raffle tickets! I think he still may have some.

The weekend after that is the Boy Scout JOTA - Jamboree on the Air. Not much to report at press time - I will have more to tell you at meeting time. October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday and Sunday.

The location is set at the Boy Scout office on 2266 S. College Road #E in Lafayette. This is next to Nimbeaux's restaurant which if they are open, serves some pretty good food....

In November 14<sup>th</sup> is the Cajun Cup 10K Run and the Cajun Country 1/2 Marathon is December 5<sup>th</sup>. If we plan to participate in these events, we will need a chairperson and volunteers. We have assisted in these events in the past and had a lot of fun by providing a ham radio public service. Free "T" shirts and refreshments normally go to all that help. Check out: <http://www.lafayettefitness.org/> for more info.

This week we saw two large sunspots. This has brought us out of the doldrums of 0 sunspot numbers that we've been experiencing with regularity this year. We are still on course for an extremely low solar minimum. I hope we will emerge from this and get the high frequencies popping soon.

Summer is officially over although the heat and humidity have hardly abated. I'm sure a glorious fall awaits us all. Our monthly club meeting is set for Thursday October, 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see you there.

73's one and all.

John

## VP's Message

A few things I would like to mention at this time. As the VP, part of my duties is to provide some kind of program for the meeting. This might be something new for the meeting. I would like for each person to bring the most interesting QSL card from their collection, say a few words about the card, pass them around and afterwards, collect them and drop them in a box, have someone pull a card and reward that person with a prize. Does that sound like fun? Bring your cards to the meeting next Thursday.

I see that Roland, NA5Q, has filed a application for the 2010 50<sup>th</sup> AARA Hamfest to be he Delta Division State Convention to take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars.

Nick K5QXJ had mentioned that we need to start a General Class License Course for those wanting to upgrade from Technician. He is looking into finding volunteers, training material, dates and locations at this time. Nick is also trying to locate the intermod problem that has been plaguing the 146.820 for the last several weeks.

I received a few queries about the stuffed mushrooms that were served at the meeting last month. It seems that they made a "BIG" impression to those who managed to get a few, they would like to know who is responsible for them. Well, Gerard Murphy KD5VPC is the one for stuffed mushrooms and they are good, maybe he will submit the recipe to put in the LARC.

Hopefully we will have a update on the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in the November issue.

Herman KN5GRK

## October General Meeting

Thursday October 1st @ 7:00 PM will be our General Meeting at the Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat Street, Scott, LA. VE Testing will be at 6:00 PM. Refreshments and Door Prizes (bring some if you have some to donate). Bring your QSL cards (see VP article on this page).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### REGULAR MEETING

Thursday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.

VE Testing @ 6:00 pm - Door Prizes - Refreshments

### HAMFEST SCHEDULE

New Orleans Hamfest—October 3<sup>rd</sup>

CLARC Hamfest — October 10<sup>th</sup>

### Local 2-Meter Nets

#### Sunday

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

#### Monday

AARA Net 7:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

Acadia Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM

147.240 pl 127.3 Crowley, LA

#### Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM

145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

#### Wednesday

Vermillion Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM

147.060 Abbeville, LA

#### Friday

HEAL Net 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays Only 1:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

### AARA OFFICERS 2009-20010

President - John Cuniff W4JHC

jhcuniff@cox.net

Vice Pres. & Newsletter Editor -

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

Secretary - Paul Scallan K5VSH

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

#### BOARD MEMBERS

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Roland Guidry - NA5Q

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**Acadiana Amateur Radio Association**

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of  
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the  
American Red Cross Building  
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

## The Future of Sunspots.

In the July 28, 2009 issue of EOS, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, there is an interesting article titled, "Are Sunspots Different During This Solar Minimum?" by W. Livingston and M. Penn. They are at the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Ariz.

The article begins by stating that there is something unusual about the current sunspot cycle. The current solar minimum has been unusually long with more than 670 days without sunspots through June 2009. (More spotless days since this article was written!) The number of spotless days had not been equaled since 1933. Also, the solar wind is reported to be in a uniquely low energy state since space measurements began nearly 40 years ago.

"Why is a lack of sunspot activity interesting?", the authors ask. Apart from lousy radio propagation at higher frequencies, a dearth of sunspots may mean the sun is going into a period of low activity - perhaps a prolonged period of low activity. This does not bode well for ham radio operators interested in 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meter bands. It could however, mean prolonged quiet conditions that favor the longer wavelength bands.

What else could this mean? During the years from 1645 to 1715, the Sun entered a period of low activity now known as the Maunder Minimum. Through several 11-year periods, the Sun displayed few if any sunspots. Models of the Sun's irradiance suggest that the solar energy input to the Earth decreased during that time and that this change in solar activity could explain the low temperatures recorded in Europe during the "Little Ice Age."

Observations taken in the infrared with the McMath-Pierce telescope at Kitt Peak, Ariz. suggest that the total magnetic field within individual sunspots has been decreasing with time independent of the sunspot cycle. A simple linear extrapolation of this data suggests to the authors that sunspots might completely vanish by 2015!

Wow!

What I think is most impressive is that a draft paper predicting the current dearth of sunspots was made four years ago!

The authors also caution that whether these observations are an omen of long-term sunspot decline, analogous to the Maunder Minimum remains to be seen.

The global climate debate might just get interesting. All the CO2 we are dumping into the air may in fact save us from the next "Little Ice Age." My question is this: "Should we be burning more fossil fuels?"

Anyone interested in reading the whole article just let me know and I can arrange to get you a reprint...

In the mean time, here's hoping the sunspots return soon!



**Our ARRL Representatives**

Shown on the left are: David Norris K5UZ Vice Director Delta Division, Virginia Bryant KE5DJA Louisiana PIO, Gary Stratton K5GLS Louisiana Section Manager and Mickey Cox K5MC Delta Division Director.

Picture taken at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen Wilhelmina Delta Division Hamfest September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Mena, Arkansas.

## Wadsworth Johnson (Wads) W5CDX SK

On Monday, August 31, 2009 Wadsworth became a Silent Key at 12:45 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette.

Some of you may not have known "Wads" but if you were involved in the National Traffic System in amateur radio, you have probably run into him at one time or another.

Wads could be found on the Region Five Traffic Net, Cycles 1, 2, and 4 plus many other National Traffic Nets. He called the

Louisiana Traffic Net (LTN) on 3910 KHz on Saturday nights at 6:00 PM for many years.

Wads had many achievements that may not be aware to you, I will list a few. After graduation, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education in 1966, later a Master's degree in Guidance Counseling and Education Administration and Supervision from Southern University-Baton Rouge, a member of three fraternities, worked for the St. Landry Parish School Board for 35 years, appointed to the Deacon Ministry Brotherhood at Jerusalem Baptist Church, president of the Male Chorus, received his Doctorate of Theology at Grace Evangelical Seminary in Lake Charles. In addition to his teaching, he worked as a professional photographer and as a tenor saxophonist for many local recording artists and groups. He was a amateur pilot (lessons given by our own Ed Roy WA5TNK) and most known to us a very dedicated ham radio operator who attended most of our AARA Hamfests.

Wads will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Remember Wads and his family in your prayers.

Funeral services were held at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Crowley, LA on Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.



## CENTRAL LOUISIANA ARC HAMFEST Pineville, Louisiana

**Date:** October 10, 2009

**Location:** Kees Park Community Center, 2450 Hwy 28 East, Pineville, LA

**Admission:** Free Admission

**Time:** 8:00 AM til

**Talk-in:** 147.330+ PL 173.8, 146.520, APRS 144.390

### Main Prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> - Icom IC-7200-HF/6M

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$500.00 Cash

3<sup>rd</sup> - Icom IC-2200H-2M mobile

4<sup>th</sup> - Icom IC-V82-2M HT

Drawing at 1:00 PM

Hourly door prizes, must be present.

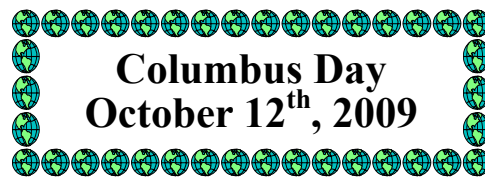
**Forums:** ARRL, ARES & others.

**VE Testing:** 9:00 AM

### Contacts:

E-mail: Bryan Haviland

bryan.j.haviland@gmail.com



## The 2009 New Orleans Hamfest HARAHAN Recreation Center SPONSORED BY: JARC, NOARC, DELTA DX

This is an **ARRL-sanctioned** Hamfest and is still scheduled for:

**Harahan Recreation Center, 6601 10th Street and Hickory Road**

**DATE & TIME:** Saturday October 3, 2009 between 8 AM and 2 PM.

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person (includes 1 raffle ticket)

### GRAND PRIZES:

1<sup>st</sup> - ICOM IC-718 HF Rig

2<sup>nd</sup> - ICOM IC-880 Dual Band D-Star Mobile

3<sup>rd</sup> - ICOM IC-P7 Handi Talkie

**DOOR PRIZES:** given out each hour.

*ICOM OF AMERICA WILL BE AT THE HAMEST WITH DEMOS OF THEIR NEW D-STAR SYSTEM AND RADIOS.*

**FORUMS:** ARRL, ARES, ICOM, and D-Star.

**VE TESTING** on site

Setup will be Friday October 2, 2009 between 5 PM and 7 PM and Saturday 7 AM to 8 AM Tables are \$10.00 each. We are still waiting to hear from some clubs (to see if they will assist or participate with us for the Hamfest).

**CONTACT:** Tyler tyler@noarc.info **HAMFEST HOTLINE:** 504-708-4527. 24/7

### SECURED VENDORS

MCM COMPUTERS

CEDAR CITY SALES

SIGN MAN OF BR

PALMETTO ANTENNAS

### POSSIBLE VENDORS

KENWOOD USA

MFJ

HAM RADIO OUTLET

### FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE ON SITE

Talk-in 146.860 PL 114.8

[Http://www.noarc.info/HAMFEST.aspx](http://www.noarc.info/HAMFEST.aspx)



## SEPTEMBER 2009 AARA MEETING MINUTES (edited)

The September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by club president John W4JHC with a prayer by Herman KN5GRK followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motions were made to dispense with the reading of the August meeting minutes and finance report.

### Old Business:

Calvin KD5JCT is presently taking care of the following items involved with our AMOS Van.

1. Have both generators mechanically and electrically fixed.
2. Remove the bolted tie-down on the small generator and return it to the previous rubber shock mounting.
3. Install fuel gas shut-off valves in the fuel lines, close these valves and run the generators dry when not in use, and treat the gasoline left in the tanks with "Stabil" or a fuel stabilizing agent.

Calvin was not in attendance due to illness. Therefore, no report was made.

We still need your spare co-axial fittings for AMOS.

There was no discussion on obtaining Hard Hats for future events.

No news on the re-location of the 146.82 repeater at this time. The 147.04 MHz repeater EchoLink is back up and running. Charlie KI5XP cautioned everyone to turn OFF the eco-link after usage.

### New Business:

John W5JHC talked about volunteers for the Boy Scout Jamboree taking place on October 26 & 27. There was some discussion on this matter. This issue is to be finalized at the next Club meeting.

Herman KN5GRK mentioned that other clubs put their meeting minutes in their newsletters. Certain parts of the minutes may be edited for the newsletter. This policy was approved by the club and will be implemented.

Herman KN5GRK mentioned that "Ham of the Year" nominations for the Louisiana ARRL Section, to be submitted for the Delta Division, election sheets were available on the front desk with a large SASE.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for persons wanting to attend the September 26 SET at the Lafayette Parish EOC.

Nick K5QXJ asked for volunteers to teach a General Class License seminar. Nick is to check for possible locations for this seminar.

There were 27 members and a two visitors in attendance.

Melissa Castille passed her Technician Class License Test and Harry Beckler KE5UPL passed his General Class Test.

The meeting adjourned and refreshments were served along with a drawing for door prizes.

Respectfully Submitted  
Paul D. Scallan, K5VSH  
Secretary, AARA



### BIRTHDAYS

10/1	CHERYL	KE5IBM
10/4	GREG	K5LFT
10/10	HERMAN	KN5GRK
10/27	DAGS	KE5CGN
10/27	LARRY	KE5KJD
11/3	PAUL	K5VSH

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership applications, this is why some may not be on the list.

## September Meeting VE Test Session Results

The following persons tested at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> AARA General Meeting.

Melissa M. Castille of Iota, LA passed Technician and received the call KF5CZA.

Harold B. Beckler of Lafayette KE5UPL upgraded to General Class.

VE's were:

Danny Griffith K5ARH  
Greg Dolan K5LFT  
Archie Hill W5AG  
Rick Breaux N5RLM

73

Danny K5ARH



AARA  
SAYS...

HAPPY

HALLOWEEN !



## October 2009 Special Events & Contests

Oct. 3	W4O - Oliver Hardy Festival Special Event Station.
Oct. 10	K4EG - 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cape Lookout Lighthouse.
Oct. 7	Fall VHF Sprint
Oct. 10	10-10 Sprint - 10 meters only.
Oct. 10	FISTS Fall Sprint
Oct. 11	North American RTTY Sprint
Oct. 17 & 18	N5S - Jamboree on the Air - JOTA Boy Scout 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event, Lafayette, LA.
Oct. 17	KC1TAC - JOTA from Camp Norse, Kingston, MA.
Oct. 17	K1K, K3G, W4C, K1G, W4Z - 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.
Oct. 18 & 19	KL50 - Celebrating 50 years of Alaska Statehood.
Oct. 19	School Club Roundup
Oct. 24	NC4AR - Annual NASCAR Days Festival.
Check out pages 78 and 93 & 94 issue of the October 2009 QST for details and more contests and special events.	

## September 2009 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	N/A				N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	3	54	0	91	KN5GRK Herman
Acadiana ARES Net	N/A				N5LRZ Ray
Acadia Parish ARES Net	3	22	0	57	KN5GRK Herman
Vermillion Parish ARES Net	4	38	0	73	KE5JXC Arnold
HEAL Net      *(M=Medical G=Guest)	2	* M 7 / G 7	0	24	KE5JKD Larry

**Lagniappe** . . . is something thrown in, gratis, for good measure.      --Mark Twain.

### LA Section Flower Fund

Virginia KE5DJA has volunteered to manage a Section Flower Fund to send flowers, on behalf of the Section, to funerals of SK Section members.

If you would like to participate, please send your donations to:

Virginia C Bryant, KE5DJA  
110 Herring St  
Leesville, LA 71446-3028

Virginia has already received a few donations (typically \$20 - \$30).

Please give what you can. I will again ask for donations when the fund is near depletion. A typical small spray of flowers costs about \$75.

At the end of each quarter, Virginia will send me (and future SM's) an accounting report on the fund. This report will be included in that month's Section News.

Gary Stratton K5GLS  
ARRL LA Section Manager

**SET (SIMULATED  
EMERGENCY TEST)  
RESULTS IN THE  
NOVEMBER ISSUE OF  
LARC**

### Faster Than a Speeding Pigeon?:

In South Africa, an information technology company proved that it was faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon than to send it using Telkom, the country's leading Internet service provider. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa's largest economy are poor due to a shortage of bandwidth and its high cost. Local news agency SAPA reported that on September 9, an 11 month old pigeon named Winston took 68 minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices near Pietermaritzburg to the coastal city of Durban with a data card strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds -- the time it took for only four percent of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line. SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. The company has 11 call centers around the country and regularly sends data to its other branches. Internet speed is expected to improve once a new 11,000 mile underwater fiber optic cable linking southern and East Africa to other networks becomes operational before South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup next year.

### QCWA Chapter 109 Member Receives Award

Herman Campbell KN5GRK was presented the "Member-of-the-Year" award at the quarterly get together at Landry's Restaurant in Henderson, LA on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

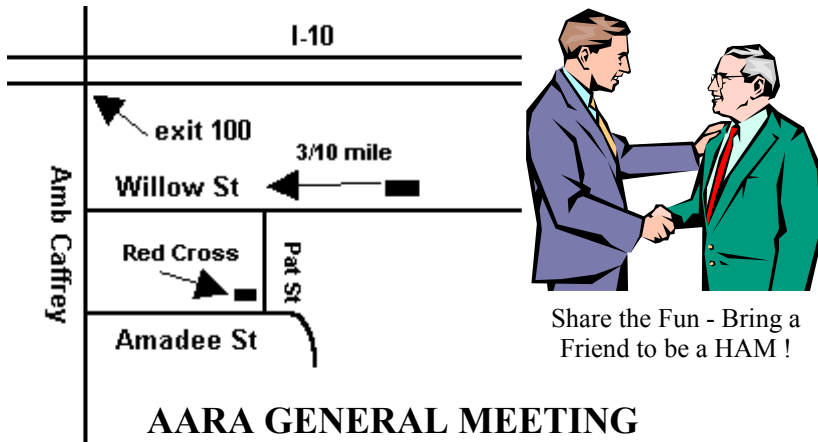
David Assf, III, W5XU President of the QCWA Chapter 109 of Baton Rouge, presented the award to Herman, who was totally surprised by being selected for this prestigious award.

A nice program on communication receivers from day one to the mid 60's by Wayne Gordon K5DF. A lot of interesting facts about these receivers.



**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



**AARA GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday October 1, 2009 - 7:00 PM**  
**VE Testing at 6:00 PM - Refreshments - Door Prizes**  
**Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA**  
**Lunch Bunch**  
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA  
Check 146.820 - repeater for info.

COMPLEMENTARY  
ISSUE

## Butter Pecan Pound Cake

(reprinted from COOKS.COM)

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 3 cups sugar  | 5 to 6 eggs (if small-use 6)   |
| 1 stick butter  | 3 1/4 cups flour (sifted once) |
| 1 cup Crisco  | 1 cup chopped pecans           |
| 3/4 cup milk  | 1 tsp. Baking powder           |
| 1/4 warm water  |                                |
| 1 tsp. butter pecan flavoring (or substitute vanilla) |                                |

Cream sugar, butter and Crisco until light and fluffy. Add whole eggs, one at a time; beating well after each addition. Then add flavoring and beat well. Mix 1/4 cup of the flour with nut meats. Add flour mixed with baking powder alternately with milk (which you have mixed with water). Start and end with flour. Fold in nuts. Put into tube pan that has been well greased and floured. Bake 1 hour and 20 minutes at 300 to 350 degree oven. When done, remove from pan after 10 minutes.

Makes 5 pounds of cake.

Herman KN5GRK  
[kn5grk@lusfiber.net](mailto:kn5grk@lusfiber.net)



## FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or [ulscmm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscmm@fcc.gov). Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245